



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO VOTE FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas man pleaded guilty in federal court today to voting in federal elections in both Kansas and Missouri.

James D. Scherzer, 68, of Kansas City, Kan., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah W. Hays this morning to a federal information that charges him with four counts of voting fraud, a misdemeanor civil rights violation. The information, which was filed on Dec. 13, 2004, replaces a criminal complaint filed against **Scherzer** on Oct. 21, 2004.

Scherzer voted twice, in both Wyandotte County, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., in the primary and general elections in 2000 (held on Aug. 8 and Nov. 7) and in the primary and general elections in 2002 (held on Aug. 6 and Nov. 5). As a resident of Kansas, Graves explained, **Scherzer** was not qualified to vote in Missouri.

“This is considered a civil rights violation,” Graves explained, “because the voters of Missouri have a Constitutional right to have their votes counted, and their elections certified, without the outcome being distorted by unqualified voters.”

“We take vote fraud seriously,” Graves added, “because it diminishes the value of legitimate votes cast by qualified voters. The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees qualified voters the right to have their votes counted without being diluted by spurious ballots cast by unqualified voters.”

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow